

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 51. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, August 3, 1861.

I.—Hereafter, when volunteers are to be mustered into the service of the United States, they will, at the same time, be minutely examined by the Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon of the Regiment, to ascertain whether they have the physical qualifications necessary for the military service. And in case any individual shall be discharged within three months after entering the service, for a disability which existed at that time, he shall receive neither pay nor allowances except subsistence and transportation to his home. The certificate given by the Surgeon will, in all cases, state whether the disability existed prior to the date of muster, or was contracted after it.

Minors, also, who may be discharged either by the civil authority or upon the personal application of parents or friends, will be discharged without pay or allowances.

II.—Cases of resignation by volunteer officers have become so numerous, that it calls for increased vigilance on the part of Regimental, Brigade, and Department Commanders to prevent abuse; and hereafter the Regimental and other Commanders through whom the resignation must pass for final action at Department Headquarters, will see, before approving it, that a clear statement of the causes which led to the resignation is given. If accepted, and the individual be discharged, the resignation will be forwarded to this office.

III.—Par. 3 of General Orders, No. 45, from this Office, dated July 19th, 1861, which prohibits volunteers who do not speak the English language from being mustered into service, is not intended to apply to regiments or companies of foreign nationality—in which men and officers speak the same tongue—but to prevent the enlistment into regiments or companies whose officers speak the English language only, of men not understanding it, and to induce such persons to enlist under officers whose language they do understand.

By ORDER:

OFFICIAL:

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

Assistant Adjutant General.